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AUG 1980

Chief, Requirements Branch, St/L, DMR

Acting Chief, Map Library Division, DMR

Inland Waterways Exchange

REF : Case 32802

1. This requirement falls into two parts, a selective briefing of one or perhaps a few of the delegates on topographic mapping, and a briefing of most or all of the delegates on requirements relating to specialized types of mapping related to inland waterways.

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2. It is requested that RDC-1961 (Observation and Elicitation) be used to brief [REDACTED] of the exchange delegation. If other members of the delegation have any background (recent) in mapping, particularly topographic surveys, perhaps one additional member of the delegation could be briefed. It is not possible to make this assessment on the basis of information provided, and it is felt that to brief members not familiar with surveying and mapping would be pointless. The potential value of information received from observation and elicitation by this delegation will depend on their ability to precisely identify maps that they may see (types, scales, sheet numbers, etc.), and to skillfully converse with Russian counterparts to determine whether topographic maps are available and used, and whether these maps are part of the national series or are done on local systems.

3. It should be pointed out to any delegates briefed on this requirement that the subject is a sensitive matter in the USSR. Topographic maps are highly classified and controlled; however, the existence of complete coverage of the USSR at 1:100,000, and the tremendous effort that the Russians are expending in this field, are well publicized in Soviet scientific literature. Any attempt by delegates to obtain copies of such maps, except perhaps on a casual request for engineering data to assist them in appraising matters related to the exchange (if this type of map is applicable at all), could result in serious charges. Previous attempts to elicit information on topographic mapping usually have resulted in a flat statement that the maps are classified. This applies to topographic maps at scales of 1:500,000 or larger. The overall objective in attempts to observe and elicit information on the basis of this requirement is to determine the availability of the topographic maps to individuals and institutions for study or field use.

SUBJECT: Inland Waterways Exchange

4. There is an urgent need for current maps and navigation charts of the inland waterways systems of the USSR. These maps contain much information that is not found in presently available literature, and would be a natural subject of interest to this particular delegation. This exchange visit potentially offers a unique opportunity to pursue the following questions:

a. Obtain detailed information on the inland waterway maps used in the Soviet Union. Determine the map scale, the type of information presented, distribution controls (for official use only—not available to public) and the issuing agencies of the maps and charts. Are the maps drafted exclusively for navigation purposes or are they overprinted on sections of existing topographic maps? What is the extent of the Soviet inland waterway system that is covered by maps at the various standard scales currently in use, for example, at 1:25,000, at 1:50,000.

b. What is the date of the surveys for these maps? To what extent has the construction of the many new dams and reservoirs necessitated new surveys? Which Soviet government agency is carrying out these surveys?

c. Attempts should be made to exchange or otherwise procure copies of these maps and charts. For example, a request could be made for navigation charts to follow the routes traveled by the delegation. If these attempts prove unsuccessful, and if there is an opportunity to visit the bridge of a river vessel while traveling, detailed descriptions of the charts actually being used by the Soviet crew would be of value.

d. In what form are these maps and charts issued—as individual sheets or compendia comparable to the U. S. River Pilot series? How is the information on inland waterway maps and other navigational aids kept up to date? By supplementary notices? How often are these issued?

e. A single copy of the following map is available in the Library of Congress:

Scheme Vodnykh Putey SSSR (Sketch of Water Routes  
SSSR) 1955. Published by the Ministry of the  
River Fleet

It is requested that an additional one or two copies be obtained if available. If a later date than 1955 is available, up to six copies should be obtained. Funds expended for purchase of this or other required maps will be reimbursed.

f. Briefed delegates should be requested to obtain any other maps that may be shown or made available to the delegation. Maps easily identified as published and available in bookstores (class maps, school maps and atlases) should not be obtained except as the individual interest of the delegate dictates. City plans, port plans and other special subject maps should be obtained.

g. Any opportunity to acquire maps at a scale of 1:1,000,000 that fit into the International Map of the World series should be taken. These sheets have been particularly difficult to obtain. They are reportedly for internal use in the USSR; however, several sheets have been shown at conferences outside of the Bloc, and there has never been any indication that they are classified.

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Coordinated:

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Distribution:

Original and 1 - Addressee  
1 - D/GG  
 1 - Ch/S  
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